

INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY/DISTRICT
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
INTERNAL NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Property/District Name: Sparks-Mudd Log House Survey Number: CH-227
 Project: Washington Gas Company Charles County Loop Line Agency: COE
 Site visit by MHT Staff: X no yes Name Date
 Eligibility recommended Eligibility not recommended X
 Criteria: A B C D Considerations: A B C D E F G None
 Justification for decision: (Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map)

This property, consisting of a mid-19th-century log structure, a ca. 1920 frame dwelling and an associated outbuilding and located on the west side of Gardiner Road and east of Beantown in Charles County, MD. not located within an historic district nor is it considered individually eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

The property is presently abandoned and the buildings forming the property are in ruinous condition. The oldest building in the group is the mid-19th-century log structure. It is a 1-1/2-story, two-room structure constructed of hewn logs and covered with a gable roof. The walls are clad with weatherboard siding. A detached brick chimney is located on the south gable end. A collapsed, one-story addition of frame is located on this south elevation. Based upon the photograph, and in disagreement with the written information presented as part of this project, the building appears to date from the second quarter of the 19th century.

The ca. 1920 frame dwelling is a two-story, five-bay structure with a central-passage, two-room deep plan. The building is in deteriorated condition.

Documentation on the property/district is presented in: Review and Compliance Files

Prepared by: R. Christopher Goodwin & Ass., May 13, 1997

Kimberly Prothro Williams June 9, 1997
 Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services Date

NR program concurrence: X yes no not applicable

Peter Z. Kuntz 8/15/97
 Reviewer, NR program Date

2008

Survey No. CH-227

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA - HISTORIC CONTEXT

I. Geographic Region:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Eastern Shore	(all Eastern Shore counties, and Cecil)
<input type="checkbox"/> Western Shore	(Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Prince George's and St. Mary's)
<input type="checkbox"/> Piedmont	(Baltimore City, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Harford, Howard, Montgomery)
<input type="checkbox"/> Western Maryland	(Allegany, Garrett and Washington)

II. Chronological/Developmental Periods:

<input type="checkbox"/> Paleo-Indian	10000-7500 B.C.
<input type="checkbox"/> Early Archaic	7500-6000 B.C.
<input type="checkbox"/> Middle Archaic	6000-4000 B.C.
<input type="checkbox"/> Late Archaic	4000-2000 B.C.
<input type="checkbox"/> Early Woodland	2000-500 B.C.
<input type="checkbox"/> Middle Woodland	500 B.C. - A.D. 900
<input type="checkbox"/> Late Woodland/Archaic	A.D. 900-1600
<input type="checkbox"/> Contact and Settlement	A.D. 1570-1750
<input type="checkbox"/> Rural Agrarian Intensification	A.D. 1680-1815
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural-Industrial Transition	A.D. 1815-1870
<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial/Urban Dominance	A.D. 1870-1930
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Modern Period	A.D. 1930-Present
<input type="checkbox"/> Unknown Period (<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric <input type="checkbox"/> historic)	

III. Prehistoric Period Themes:

<input type="checkbox"/> Subsistence
<input type="checkbox"/> Settlement
<input type="checkbox"/> Political
<input type="checkbox"/> Demographic
<input type="checkbox"/> Religion
<input type="checkbox"/> Technology
<input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Adaptation

IV. Historic Period Themes:

<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Community Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Economic (Commercial and Industrial)
<input type="checkbox"/> Government/Law
<input type="checkbox"/> Military
<input type="checkbox"/> Religion
<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Educational/Cultural
<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation

V. Resource Type:

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Town

Historic Function(s) and Use(s): Industrial/Manufacturing Facility

Known Design Source: _____

CH-227
Sparks-Mudd Log House
West side of Gardiner Road, South of S.R. 382
Vicinity of Waldorf, Maryland

Capsule Summary

The Sparks-Mudd Log House is one of four resources comprising an agricultural complex. The log house was constructed between 1880 and 1900 as a tenant house. The builder of the house is unknown. However, the owner of the property at this time was Henry L. Mudd. The first occupants of the log house probably were the Frank Sparks family, an African-American family. Frank and William Sparks were tenant farmers. The log house exhibits two periods of construction: the one and one-half story, "two up, two down" log core, and a wood-frame lean-to, now collapsed, which was appended to the south gable end during the early-twentieth century. The log house, recently vacated, is in very poor condition. Northeast of the log house is a brick-lined well.

Approximately 500 feet south of the log house is a two-story, wood-frame dwelling sheathed with clapboard siding. The dwelling is characterized by two unusual features: a paired gable roof and two front doors within a peculiar fenestration pattern. The two front doors and the paired gable roof suggest that dwelling was constructed in two phases. South of the frame dwelling is a wood-frame shed.

The resources were evaluated collectively under Criterion A as representing the shift in the domestic and agricultural patterns of Charles County during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, and individually under Criterion C for embodying a distinctive architectural type, period, or method of construction. The resources were determined to lack sufficient integrity to convey their period of significance.

The Sparks-Mudd Log House also was analyzed under Criterion C as a building type historically associated with African-American domestic design. As stated above, the builder of the house is unknown. In addition, archival research revealed African-American occupation of the house (the Sparks family), but no conclusive evidence was uncovered to suggest the Sparks family or other African-American construction of the house. The Sparks-Mudd Log House is an example of a simple building type common to tenant farmers, and is not associated exclusively with African-American building patterns (Criterion C).

Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. CH-227

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Sparks-Mudd log House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number Gardiner Road, south of S.R. 382 ☐ not for publication

city, town Waldorf ☒ vicinity of congressional district Eighth

state Maryland county Charles

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: vacant

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Gardiner Station

street & number P.O. Box 1068 telephone no.:

city, town La Plata state and zip code MD 20646-1068

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Charles County Courthouse liber 1385

street & number Charles Street folio 344

city, town La Plata state MD

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

pository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. CH-227

Condition

☐ excellent
☐ good
☐ fair

☒ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site

☐ moved

date of move

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

See attached continuation sheets.

8. Significance

Survey No. CH-227

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 500–1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

See Attached continuation sheets.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. CH-227

See attached continuation sheets.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 144.304 acQuadrangle name HughesvilleQuadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A	Zone	Easting	Northing

B	Zone	Easting	Northing

Verbal boundary description and justification This is a 144-acre property located on the west side of Gardiner Road, approximately one mile south of MD Rt. 382. The property contains the Sparks-Mudd Log House, a brick well, a ca.1913 frame dwelling, and frame shed. Historically, the property comprised 359 acres and was called "Jordan."

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Lori Thursby, Architectural Historianorganization R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates, Inc date 3 July 1997street & number 241 East Fourth Street, Suite 100 telephone 301-694-0428city or town Frederick state MD

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DIVISION OF
100 COMBAT STREET
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023
514-7600

Property Location

The Sparks-Mudd Log House is the principal resource comprising the remnants of a late-nineteenth and early-twentieth century agricultural complex in northern Charles County. The small complex also includes a ca. 1913 wood frame residence, a one-story wood frame outbuilding, and a brick-lined well. This complex is located on a 144-acre parcel on the west side of Gardiner Road, approximately one mile south of S.R. 382, in the vicinity of Waldorf, Maryland. The property retains its rural character; however, recent commercial and residential development is found in the vicinity.

The buildings are situated along the road frontage of the property, at the edge of historically cultivated fields; the fields now are moderately wooded. The frame dwelling and outbuilding are oriented towards Gardiner Road; the log house faces west, away from the road. The log house is located at the north end of the property, approximately 500 feet north of the frame dwelling. The north boundary of the property, which is within 50 feet of the log house, is delineated by a 60-foot wide row of dense vegetation.

Resource Descriptions

Log House

The Sparks-Mudd Log House represents a common mid- to late- nineteenth century house type associated with tenant farming. The dwelling is a one and one-half story, double pen log building. The walls were constructed of hewn logs sheathed with clapboard siding and plain cornerboards. The clapboard siding probably was a later addition since chinking is visible in between a number of the logs. Square notching was used to join the log corners. Square notch corner joints were uncommon to Charles County, where V-notched corners were predominant. There was no evidence of pegs or nails to reinforce the joints. The house adopts a rectangular footprint roughly measuring 21-by-15 feet. The dwelling terminates in a side-gable roof sheathed with asphalt roll.

The front (west) elevation of the house is oriented away from the road. It features an off-center single door opening with a simple trabeated hewn-log frame. The small proportions of the dwelling are evident by the size of the doorway, which only measures about four feet in height. A single door opening also punctuates the south gable end. The placement of a second door on a short end wall is unusual. Typically, the secondary door was positioned on the rear elevation, aligned with the front entrance. The rear elevation of the house exhibits two wood-sash windows. The north gable end features a central wood-sash window at each level. The top sash of these two windows are extant; they consist of two-light, wood-sash units.

The interior plan contains two rooms on each floor. The first floor partition wall is punctuated by an off-center doorway. Stairs to the upper level are located at the northwest corner of the south room, against the interior partition wall. The stairs now are encased within plywood sheets. The south room also contains a wood-burning stove. The first floor functioned as the main living quarters, while the second floor loft space served as sleeping quarters. Portions of the interior walls in the north room are finished in plaster. Wallboard added by later residents covers the south room's interior walls.

During the early-twentieth century, a one-story, wood-frame, lean-to addition was appended to the south gable end. Typically, additions were appended to the rear of the house, forming an L- or T-shaped building. This addition functioned as a kitchen, evidenced by a detached brick chimney, which was erected between the core and the lean-to. A pipe connected the chimney to the wood-burning stove inside the house.

Located north of the house is a brick-lined well. A makeshift plywood structure was built over the top of the well.

The log house has remained vacant for several years, and currently is in an advanced stage of deterioration. The majority of the deterioration to the house is at the southeast corner, where the roof has caved in and caused the wall to collapse partially. The entire west side of the roof is sagging, and the west

wall is buckling. Half of the floor of the upper level caved in at the south room due to structural failures of the floor joists. The frame addition has collapsed and pulled away from the log house. These structural failures have caused the entire house to lean. In addition, the windows and much of the clapboard siding is in poor condition.

Frame Dwelling

The frame dwelling is a modest, two-story rectangular building that rests on a series of concrete footings. The exterior wall surface is built of clapboard sheathing that was later covered by asphalt shingles; most of the asphalt shingles have been removed. The building terminates in a paired front gable roof, an uncommon roof configuration, sheathed with asphalt shingles. The dwelling does not exhibit any exterior architectural embellishment.

The facade is characterized by an unusual asymmetrical fenestration and door pattern. The first floor is divided into five bays with single doors positioned at the west end (first) bay and the center (third) bay. Three windows on the second story are aligned over the second, third, and fifth, first-floor bays. Two attic-story windows punctuate the center of the gable faces. The side elevations are two bays wide. The window sashes mostly are intact, but no glass panes survive. The two front doors and the paired gable roof suggest that dwelling was constructed in two phases. The west gabled section of the house, which contains the door at the west end bay, was constructed initially. The house was later expanded by the addition of a similar gabled section appended to the east end.

The interior of the building is a central hall plan with two rooms on each side. A staircase is located on the south wall of the center hall. All rooms contain milled woodwork. The interior and exterior of the dwelling are in deteriorated condition; the house is vacant. Heavy vegetation covers the majority of the house.

Frame Shed

Located south of the frame dwelling is a one-story, wood-frame shed. The outbuilding is characterized by a rectangular footprint comprised of a gabled section and a shed roof wing. The roof is clad with standing seam metal, and the walls are sheathed with vertical board siding. No openings or other architectural features were discernible due to the dense vegetation that covers all walls; only the roof is visible from the road.

Summary of Significance

The Sparks-Mudd Log House is one of four resources located on a 144-acre property that at one time functioned as a tenant farm. The other resources include a brick well, a ca. 1913 frame dwelling, and a shed; the latter two buildings were unrelated to the log house, and, apparently the tenant farm. The resources were evaluated collectively under Criterion A for their potential historical association with the shift in the domestic and agricultural patterns of Charles County during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, and individually under Criterion C for their potential to embody a distinctive architectural type, period, or method of construction. These buildings do not possess significance or those qualities of integrity necessary for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

History and Support

Site-Specific History

Archival research revealed that the property containing the four built resources originally was part of a larger tract of land owned by Jeremiah Dyer. Dyer owned the 350-acre tract called "Jordan" between 1847 and 1873 (Table 1). With slave labor, Dyer primarily cultivated tobacco on this property, although wheat, Indian corn, and oats also were important crops in his overall agricultural production (Agricultural Census 1850 and 1860; Slave Census 1850). In 1873, Jeremiah Dyer, with others, sold this property to Henry L. Mudd, Sr. for \$5,000 (Charles County Circuit Court [CCCC] Deeds, GAH 4:204). According to this deed, the property contained only 300 acres, 50 acres less than the amount recorded in the 1847 deed. This acreage difference could not be reconciled through deed research.

Approximately five years later, Henry L. Mudd, Sr. died, and the Jordan tract was left to his children as heirs (CCCC Deeds, BGS 3:204). Soon thereafter, Henry L. Mudd, son of Henry L. Mudd, Sr., claimed clear title to the Jordan tract by obtaining the interests from the other heirs. One such transaction

TABLE 1. PARCEL NO. 98, CHAIN OF TITLE SUMMARY

Date: 30 May 1989
Acreage: 144 acres
Grantee: Gardiner Station
Grantor: Delia A. Byrd
Liber: DBG 1385
Folio: 344

Date: 22 August 1974
Acreage: half interest in 144 acres +/-
Grantee: Delia A. Byrd
Grantor: Alvin L. Byrd estate
Liber: PCM 354
Folio: 245

Date: 16 October 1959
Acreage: 144 acres +/-
Grantee: Alvin L. Byrd & Jimmie D. Byrd
Grantor: James C. Mitchell, trustee
Liber: PCM 145
Folio: 99

Date: 12 August 1916
Acreage: 100 acres +/-
Grantee: James McPherson
Grantor: George W. Adams et al.
Liber: CP 30
Folio: 167

Date: 19 June 1914
Acreage: 359 acres +/-
Grantee: George W. Adams
Grantor: John E. Annon
Liber: HCC 27
Folio: 288

Date: 19 June 1914
Acreage: 359 acres +/-
Grantee: John E. Annon
Grantor: Ernest Weigle
Liber: HCC 27
Folio: 286

Date: 8 October 1912
Acreage: 359 acres +/-
Grantee: Ernest Weigle
Grantor: Henry L. Mudd heirs
Liber: HCC 25
Folio: 50

Date: 1 December 1881
Acreage: 359 acres
Grantee: Henry L. Mudd
Grantor: Mary C. Dyer
Liber: BGS 5
Folio: 580

Date: 1878
Acreage: 359 acres
Grantee: Henry L. Mudd
Grantor: Henry L. Mudd, Sr. heirs
Liber: BGS 3
Folio: 204

Date: 18 September 1873
Acreage: 300 acres +/-
Grantee: Henry L. Mudd, Sr.
Grantor: Jeremiah Dyer et al.
Liber: GAH 4
Folio: 204

Date: 1847
Acreage: 350 acres
Grantee: Jeremiah Dyer
Grantor: Elizabeth A. Dyer
Liber: WM 2
Folio: 264

occurred in 1881, when he purchased Mary C. Dyer's interest in the Jordan tract, then recorded as 359 acres (CCCC Deeds, BGS 5:580). Henry L. Mudd (Jr.), a farmer, practiced diversified farming. Tobacco was his principal crop; in 1880, he produced 20,000 lbs of tobacco, the third largest amount in the Bryantown election district. Other important commodities included Indian corn, wheat, Irish potatoes, apples, and various livestock. The value of his 360(sic)-acre farm, including buildings, was listed at \$5,000 (Agricultural Census 1880).

Like many county farmers after the Civil War, Henry utilized sharecroppers and tenant farmers to maintain a profitable farm. The 1880 Agricultural Census listed Henry Mudd as a landowner. In the census, the names of George Chapman, Henry Chapman, and Richard Jamison immediately followed the entry for Henry Mudd. These men rented "for salaries of products," presumably from Henry Mudd. By 1900, Henry L. Mudd operated a tenant farm. His tenants were the Frank Sparks family, an African-American family. The Sparks household consisted of eight persons. Frank, the head of the household, and William Sparks (relation unknown) were indicated as farm laborers (Census 1900). This evidence suggests that the extant log dwelling, which exhibits several characteristics associated with late-nineteenth century tenant houses (see "Architectural Context" below), was constructed between 1880 and 1900, during Henry L. Mudd's tenure, to house his tenant farmers. The Sparks likely were the first occupants of the log house. Nineteenth century tax assessment records listing property improvements were not available at the Maryland State Archives to corroborate this presumption.

Henry L. Mudd died intestate in 1903. His estate was conveyed to his wife, M. Pauline, and his seven children. The Mudd family retained title to the tract until 1912, when they sold it for \$7,000 to Ernest Weigle, who only owned the property for two years (CCCC Deeds, HCC 25:50). However, during his short tenure, Ernest Weigle added two tenant houses to the estate, increasing the value of the improvements from \$1,487 in 1912, to \$2,487 in 1913 and 1914 (Charles County Tax Assessment Records 1912-1914). These improvements probably included the original core of the frame dwelling. A 1914 USGS topographic map

was the earliest historic map to indicate a structure on this property; nineteenth century maps generally do not indicate tenant dwellings. It is unlikely that this house was the residence of Ernest Weigle since he owned the property for only two years, the shortest tenure of this property. He may have constructed the dwelling for speculative purposes. In 1914, Ernest Weigle sold the Jordan tract to John E. Annon, who immediately sold it to George W. Adams (CCCC Deeds, HCC 27:286, 288). At this time, the Jordan tract also was referred to as "Locust Grove."

In 1916, James McPherson, an African-American, acquired a 100-acre portion of the 359-acre property from George W. Adams (CCCC Deeds, CP 30:167). By 1931, this parcel was valued at \$1,280, with \$925 worth of improvements. Tax assessment records indicated James McPherson, a farmer, augmented his land-holdings in 1932 through the acquisition of a 44-acre parcel, which may have been a contiguous part of the original Jordan tract. Consequently, his real estate value increased to \$1,920 (Charles County Tax Assessment Records 1930-1932). Between 1940 and 1944, James McPherson's 144-acre property was valued at \$2,240, with improvements worth \$1,300. The latter amount included a \$900 value for a house, and \$400 value for a barn(s) and outbuildings (1939-1944 Charles County Tax Assessment Records). The increase in the improvements value, with the majority afforded to the house, likely indicates that the frame dwelling was expanded ca. 1940.

In 1959, a trustee for James McPherson's estate conveyed the 144-acre property called "Part of Jordan" or "Locust Grove" to Alvin L. Byrd and Jimmie D. Byrd for \$11,000 (CCCC Deeds, PCM 145:99). The property was granted to Delia A. Byrd in 1974, who owned the property until 1989, when she sold it to Gardiner Station (CCCC Deeds, PCM 354:245; DBG 1385:344).

Agricultural Context

During the late 1800s and early 1900s, patterns of land ownership in Charles County and southern Maryland underwent a dramatic transition from plantations, which supported a predominantly tobacco economy, to smaller tenant farms. The Jordan/Locust Grove property illustrates this agricultural transition.

Agriculture, specifically tobacco farming, had been the economic base of Charles County since the county was established in 1658. The height of tobacco production, in terms of percentage of state production, occurred during the antebellum period. In 1840, Charles County produced 3.25 million pounds of tobacco, an amount that comprised 13.2 percent of the state's total output. By 1860, the county's output had increased to 4.5 million pounds, or 12.2 percent of Maryland's production (Wesler et al. 1981:124).

Charles County's farmers utilized a large labor force to cultivate tobacco. Tobacco crops consumed large expanses of prime agricultural land and required a substantial year-round source of labor (Camp 1977:50). Tobacco production was labor intensive; a single tobacco grower was capable only of tending to two to three acres (McGrath and McGuire 1992). As a result, this monocrop economy largely was dependent upon slave labor, which until the early-eighteenth century was limited only to the wealthiest plantation owners. From the early-eighteenth century until emancipation, the number of slaves in Charles County steadily increased. In 1712, slaves comprised 18.1 percent of the county's population (Wesler et al. 1981:125). This percentage increased to 44.5 by 1790, and to 54.6 by 1860 (Fields 1985:10-13; Klapthor and Brown 1958:68). Jeremiah Dyer, land owner of the Jordan tract prior to the Civil War, retained 12 slaves to cultivate his tobacco crop (Slave Census 1850).

The Civil War brought drastic changes to the tobacco-based economy. As former slaves migrated to the nearby urban centers of Baltimore and Washington, D.C., a severe labor shortage occurred in rural areas, which markedly increased the cost of tobacco production (Scharf 1892:113). Landowners in Charles County were forced to adjust to a dramatic change in the labor force. During this period, the region suffered

economically and the county was one of the most depressed areas in the state. By 1864, the monetary value of slave property in southern Maryland had collapsed (Walsh and Fox 1974:334).

Over the next three decades, new agricultural patterns evolved in the county. The average size of county farms declined steadily during the late-nineteenth century, as economic hardship forced many landowners to divide their large land-holdings. Large estates were divided into smaller farms. Small-scale farmers were forced to sell or mortgage portions of their real and personal property in order to survive financially. The former tobacco plantations were supplanted by a system of tenant farming and sharecropping. Tenant farmers assumed the responsibility for cultivating the land. These residents shared profits from the crop with the property owner while retaining a portion as compensation (McDaniel 1982a:20). Henry L. Mudd, the owner of the Jordan tract between 1878 and 1903, appears to have adopted these changes in agricultural production. Although Mudd retained his acreage, he adopted a system of sharecropping and tenant farming. In 1900, tenants of the Mudd farm included an African-American family (Census 1900).

Despite economic difficulties, the region's post-Civil War economy remained dependent upon tobacco. Sharecropping and tenant farming provided the labor force, and by the late-nineteenth century, tobacco once again provided the major source of county revenue. Charles County accounted for between 19 and 22 percent of Maryland's output during this period (Camp 1977:49-51; Wesler et al. 1981:128). County farmers, concerned over soil depletion and the increased costs of tobacco production, were forced to diversify their crop base. Wheat and corn became important commodities (Rivoire 1990:20). Secondary commodities included wool, potatoes, hay, and forest products. Commercial truck farming and dairying developed after 1900 to serve the nearby urban markets (Scharf 1881:124,141; Wesler et al. 1981:143).

From the close of the Civil War to the early-twentieth century, Charles County experienced minimal population or economic growth. From 1870 to 1930, the population fluctuated between 15,000 and 18,500. Although some African-Americans moved into cities following emancipation, it was not unusual for freed

slaves to remain in familiar areas. In 1880, African-Americans still comprised 58 percent of Charles County's total population (Fields 1985:176). Agriculture remained the principal occupation of the majority of the county's African-American and white residents. However, an economic system based on wage tenancy and sharecropping restricted most from rising out of poverty.

Architectural Context

The development of tenant farming after the Civil War was significant to the recovery of southern Maryland's agricultural economy, specifically its tobacco industry. This trend was manifested through the evolution of the tenant house. By the late-nineteenth century, the tenant house was a common architectural form throughout southern Maryland, including Charles County.

The following discussion on the evolution of the tenant house building type focuses on tenant houses built by African-Americans. The discussion is based on previous studies (McDaniel 1979; McDaniel 1982b) of tenant housing in southern Maryland, which have centered on African-American tenant houses. However, these studies emphasized that African-American tenant houses resembled the log houses of rural white families of the same economic standing (McDaniel 1979:29-30; McDaniel 1982b:85-86). A selected survey in Calvert County included approximately twelve log houses similar in form and construction to the tenant houses described in McDaniel's surveys. Although log tenant houses were not distinguished from log land-owner houses, all were identified as "a common form of housing for both blacks and whites during the whole of the nineteenth century" (Nield 1977:3). One conclusion presented in these studies is that the form and construction of log houses in rural southern Maryland, including tenant houses, were similar regardless of the race of the builders and/or inhabitants.

The most typical tenant house constructed by African-Americans immediately after the Civil War was the single pen log house. This house, which resembled the one-room slave quarters of the antebellum period, was a small, one and one-half story gabled-roof dwelling that adopted a simple plan known as "one

up, one down." This plan consisted of a single living space on the ground floor with a half-story loft space above for a sleeping quarter. The house averaged 16 to 20 feet in length and 14 to 16 feet in width (McDaniel 1982a:41, 44, 52, 56). The front elevation typically occupied the long side of the building, with the door centered on this elevation. Often, an exterior chimney was constructed on the gable end. Windows were characterized by their small size and wood shutters, as opposed to glass panes (McDaniel 1982a:72-73).

Log construction was utilized for a number of reasons, including the availability of building materials, inexpensive cost, ease of construction, and durability. A number of corner joinery techniques were employed in log construction to interlock the alternating tiers, thus eliminating the necessity for pegging or nailing. Six methods of corner notching were employed in the eastern United States: saddle, V-, diamond, full dovetail, half dovetail, and square. V-notching was the most widely used corner joinery in Maryland. The Sparks-Mudd Log House utilized square notching, an uncommon method in southern Maryland. The builder of the house may have been unfamiliar with log construction, and used square notching, which is easier to fashion than V-notching (Kniffen and Glassie 1986:169, 171, Figure 28).

The tenant house building form evolved slowly after the Civil War. Most African-Americans and whites who worked as sharecroppers or tenant farmers could afford only small, log dwellings. This trend persisted in southern Maryland until the 1890s, when the agricultural economy had recovered fully and begun to improve. As a result, tenant farmers and owners of small farms constructed larger two-room, gabled-roof log dwellings. These houses measured between 18 to 23 feet in length, and 13 to 16 feet in width. Typical improvements included a symmetrical, three-bay facade with glazed windows, as opposed to shuttered window openings, and plank floors instead of dirt floors. As a sign of their improved economic status, many African-American tenant farmers and land owners were able to purchase wood-burning stoves for their dwellings (McDaniel 1979:25, 29; McDaniel 1982b:86). The Sparks-Mudd Log House typifies this house type.

As rural households grew more financially independent towards the end of the nineteenth century and into the twentieth century, these log dwellings typically were expanded. A wood-frame addition attached to the log core usually housed a kitchen or bedroom (McDaniel 1982b:86). As a result, the traditional log house form changed. The enlargement of the Sparks-Mudd Log House illustrates this pattern. The wood-frame kitchen addition probably was appended to the south gable end of the house during the early-twentieth century. The frame addition reflects the transition from the use of local resources, to a reliance on mass-produced, commercially-available materials that required a payment in cash.

The ongoing changes in the socio-economic status of rural blacks in southern Maryland reflected changes to the building form and construction techniques of African-American tenant and landowner housing. During the early-twentieth century, the one and one-half story log house was replaced with two-story frame dwellings. The basic "two down, two up" floor plan was adapted to incorporate a center hall and rear ell or wing. A central cross-gable was added to the side-gable roof to update and enhance the symmetrical three-bay facade. The exterior was sheathed with clapboard siding; however, few were embellished with Victorian-period woodwork popular at the time. Nonetheless, early-twentieth century African-American housing, like earlier tenant housing, resembled the vernacular housing of rural whites, reflecting their similar economic standing (McDaniel 1979:26, 29-30; McDaniel 1982b:86-87).

Analysis

The Sparks-Mudd Log House is one of four resources located on the 144-acre portion of the original 359-acre Jordan tract. A brick-lined well associated with the log house, and a frame dwelling and shed dating to ca. 1913, also survive on the property. The log house and well were constructed between 1880 and 1900 under Henry L. Mudd's ownership of the Jordan tract. Around 1880, Henry L. Mudd established a tenant farm, in keeping with the common response to the economic depression that southern Maryland suffered after the Civil War. The log house probably was inhabited by the Sparks family, an African-

American family. Frank and William Sparks were tenant farmers. Archival research did not uncover the builder of the log house.

The Jordan tract remained in the Mudd family until 1912, when Ernest Weigle purchased the property. During Ernest Weigle's three-year ownership, the two-story frame dwelling and the frame shed were constructed. It is unknown if Ernest Weigle resided in this house, or if he continued the tenancy of the property; however, it appears that the construction of the frame dwelling and shed was unrelated to the log house. Between 1916 and 1959, James McPherson, an African-American, owned 144 acres of the Jordan tract. Tax assessment records credit \$400 of improvements to his property in 1940. The improvements presumably were attributed to the expansion of the frame dwelling, his probable residence, since the frame addition to the log house is a comparatively small addition unlikely to be valued at \$400. Moreover, architectural evidence indicates the frame addition to the log house was built during the early-twentieth century. It is unknown if the log house was occupied during James McPherson's tenure.

The buildings were evaluated collectively as representing the shift in agricultural trends and patterns of land ownership that occurred during the post-Civil War era in Charles County (Criterion A). The Sparks-Mudd Log House is an important component of the tenant farm that was established on this property by ca. 1880. Archival evidence does not suggest that the frame dwelling and the shed were components of the tenant farm. Similarly, the other major components of the tenant farm, specifically the main farmhouse, barns, or outbuildings associated with the property owner or the tenant(s), are not extant. Without these components, the log house alone does not reflect a tenant farm, which was a distinct economic entity. Because the other farm buildings are no longer present, the site as a whole lacks integrity and does not clearly or fully represent Charles County's shift to tenant farming during the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries. The complex, therefore, does not meet Criterion A.

The buildings also were evaluated individually for illustrating a distinctive architectural type, period, or method of construction (Criterion C). The Sparks-Mudd Log House was assessed specifically as an

example of a late-nineteenth century log tenant house in southern Maryland. The preceding Architectural Context section described three stages in the evolution of tenant housing: 1) the single-unit log house constructed immediately after the Civil War; 2) the double-pen log house built during the late-nineteenth century; and, 3) the two-story, wood-frame, vernacular dwelling erected during the early-twentieth century. The Sparks-Mudd Log House represents the second stage of the tenant house building form. The house, however, is in an advanced stage of deterioration. Although many of its diagnostic features are still identifiable, the integrity of the building has been compromised severely by its poor condition. The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties contains numerous examples of log tenant houses in southern Maryland similar to the Sparks-Mudd house. Some documented examples include the Hawkins House, built ca. 1880s in Charles County (CH-306); the Joseph Smith Log House (CLVT-135), erected during the first decade of the twentieth century; and, the Thompson House, constructed ca. 1870s (MONT:16-12-18). These log dwellings are better-preserved examples of the second phase of the tenant house building type.

The Sparks-Mudd Log House also was analyzed under Criterion C for its potential significance as a representative building type associated with African-American construction and ownership. Archival research revealed African-American occupation of the house (the Sparks family), but no conclusive evidence was uncovered to suggest the Sparks family or other African-American construction of the house. James McPherson, a later owner of the property, is linked only to the frame dwelling. The Sparks-Mudd Log House is an example of a simple building type common to tenant farmers, regardless of the race of the occupants, and is, therefore, not associated exclusively with African-American building patterns (Criterion C).

Examination of the frame dwelling and the shed revealed that the buildings do not exemplify distinctive or significant architectural types, periods, or methods of constructions. These buildings are in a deteriorated condition caused by neglect and uncontrolled overgrowth. Due to their poor condition, the buildings lack integrity of design, setting, materials, workmanship, and feeling to meet Criterion C.

This property was documented during cultural resource investigations for a proposed 7.5-mile long gas pipeline project in Prince George's and Charles Counties, Maryland. Proposed plans for the gas pipeline include the construction of a gauging station comprising five built resources and ancillary equipment at the southern terminus. The proposed location of the gauging station is north of the Sparks-Mudd Log House, on the adjacent property. The proposed gauging station will not be visible from the secondary (side) viewshed of the log house due to the 60-foot wide vegetation cover located along the northern boundary line. Documentation of the domestic complex was undertaken by Stone & Webster Engineering Corporation for the Washington Gas Light Company.

Maryland Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan Data

Geographic Organization:

Western Shore

Chronological/Developmental Period(s):

Industrial/Urban Dominance A.D. 1870-1930

Historic Period Theme(s):

Agriculture

Architecture

Resource Type:

Category: Buildings

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function and Use: Agriculture/Tenant Farm

Known Design Source: None

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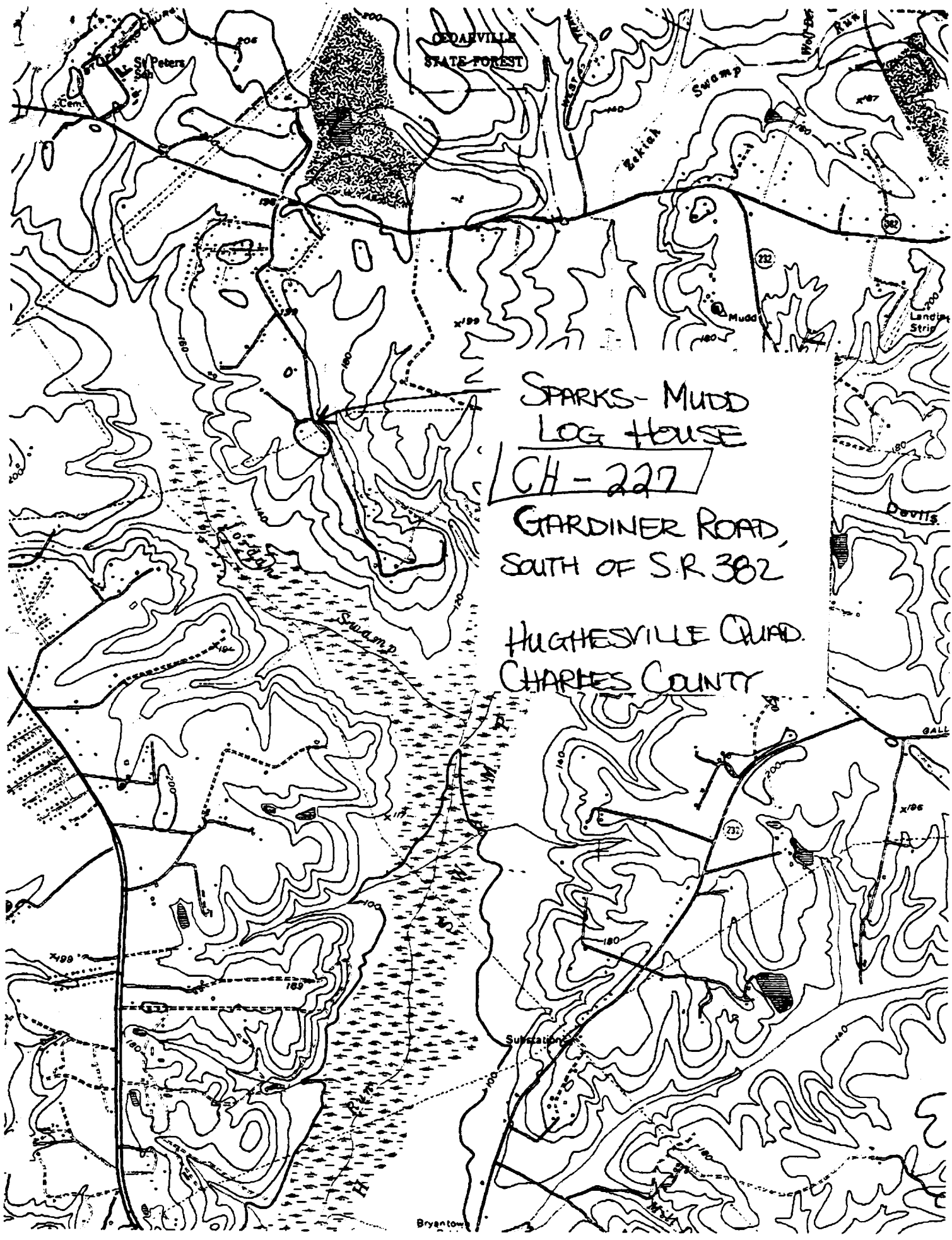
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CEDARVILLE
STATE FOREST

Swamp

Zekiah

222

Mudd

Landing Strip

SPARKS- MUDD
LOG HOUSE

CH-227

GARDINER ROAD,
SOUTH OF S.R. 382

HUGHESVILLE QUAD.
CHARLES COUNTY

Devils

GALL

x/86

222

Substation

Bryantown



SPARKS - MUDD LOG HOUSE CH-227
CHARLES COUNTY, MARYLAND

LOZI O. THURSBY

JUNE 1997
MARYLAND SHPO

VIEW EAST OF INTERIOR OF SOUTH ROOM

4 OF 9

910 DECEMBER 10 1997



SPARKS-MUDD LOG HOUSE CH-227

CHARLES COUNTY, MARYLAND

LORI O. THURSBY

JUNE 1997

MARYLAND SHPO

VIEW NORTHEAST OF THE WEST AND SOUTH ELEVATIONS OF
THE LOG HOUSE

1 OF 9



SPARKS-MUDD LOG HOUSE CH-227

CHARLES COUNTY, MARYLAND

LORI O. THURSBY

JUNE 1997

MARYLAND SHPO

DETAIL OF THE NORTHEAST CORNER SHOWING THE
EXPOSED LOG CORNER JOINEERY AND CLAPBOARD
SIDING

3 OF 9

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SPARKS-MUDD LOG HOUSE CH-227

CHARLES COUNTY, MARYLAND

LOUI OTHURSBY

JUNE 1997

MARYLAND SHPO

VIEW NORTHEAST OF THE EAST AND SOUTH ELEVATIONS
OF THE LOG HOUSE

2 OF 9



SPARKS - MUDD LOG HOUSE 44-227
CHARLES COUNTY, MARYLAND

LORI O. THURSBY

JUNE 1997

MARYLAND SHPO

DETAIL OF ENCLOSED STAIRCASE AND HEWN CEILING JOIST
5 OF 9

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SPARKS - MUDD LOG HOUSE CH - 227
CHARLES COUNTY, MARYLAND

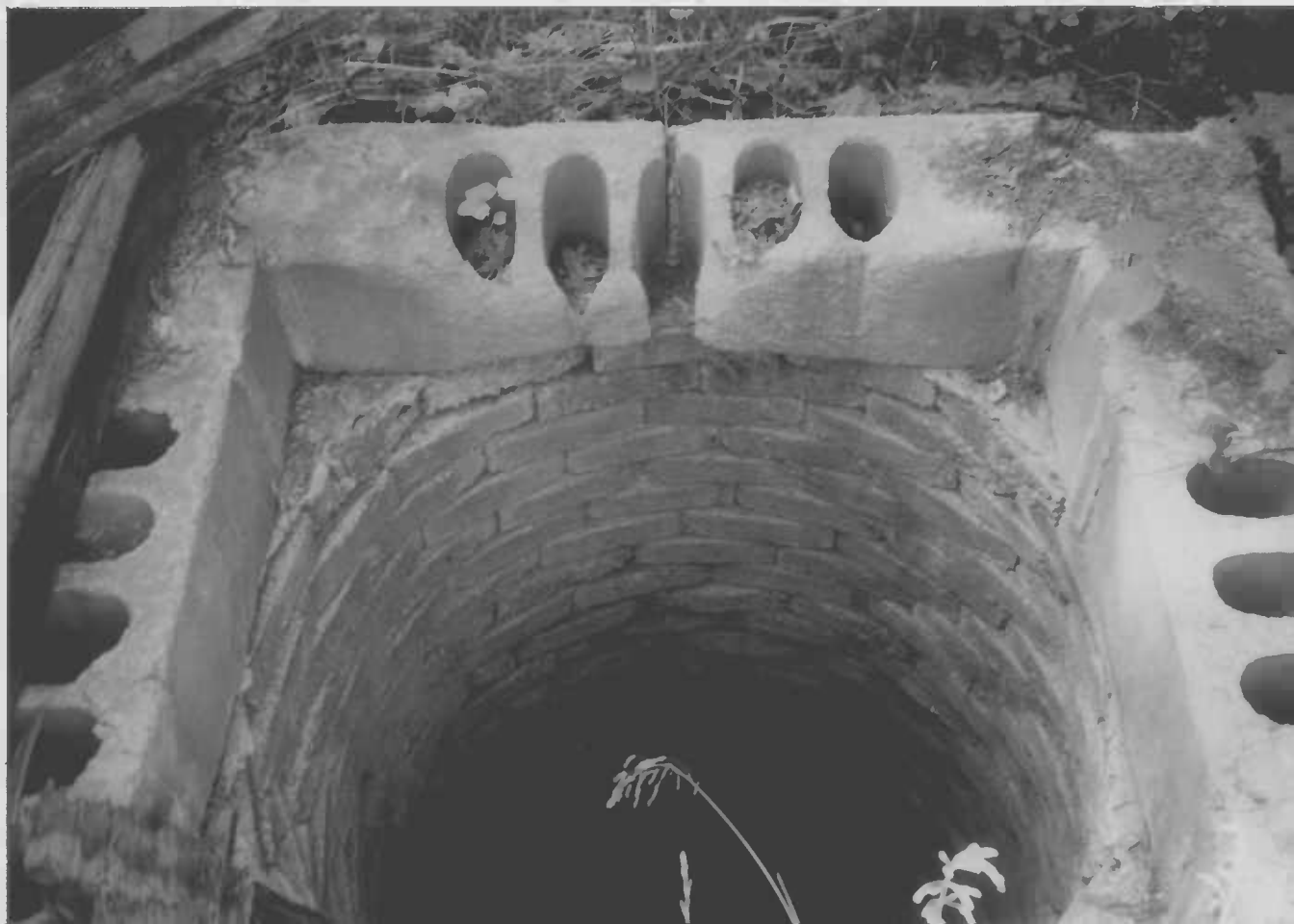
LOUI A THURSBY

JUNE 1997

MARYLAND SHPO

VIEW SOUTHWEST OF THE WELL

6 OF 9



SPARKS - MUDD LOG HOLE CH-227
CHARLES COUNTY, MARYLAND

LORI A. THURSBY

JUNE 1997

MARYLAND SHPO

DETAIL OF THE WELL

7 OF 9

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SPARKS - MUDD LOG HOUSE CH-227

CHARLES COUNTY, MARYLAND

LORI O. THURSBY

JUNE 1997

MARYLAND SHPO

VIEW NORTHEAST OF THE WEST AND SOUTH ELEVATIONS
OF THE FRAME DWELLING

8 OF 9



SPARKS - MUDD LOG HOUSE CH-227

CHARLES COUNTY, MARYLAND

LORI O. THURSBY

JUNE 1997

MARYLAND SHPO

VIEW NORTHWEST OF THE FRAME SHED

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